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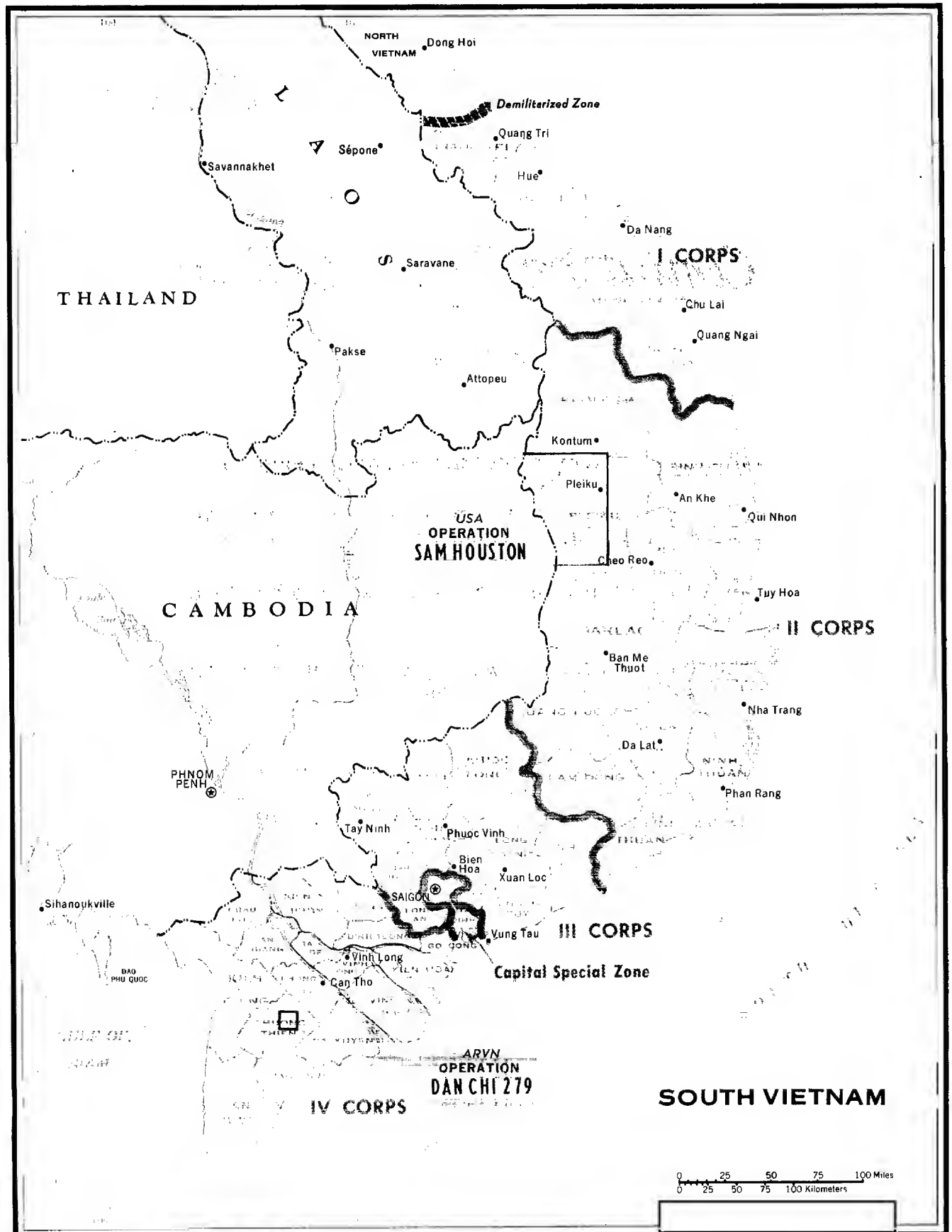
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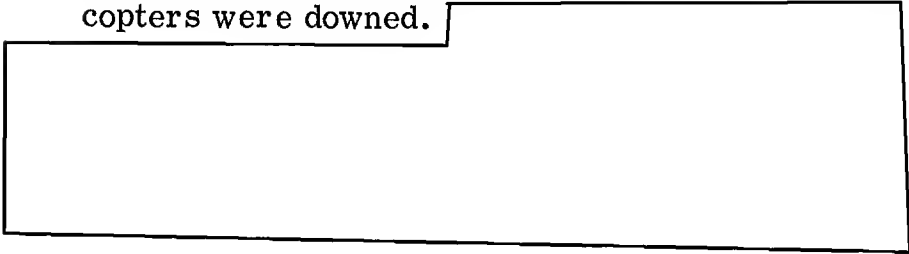


*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Heavy fighting has been reported in two separate ground actions.

Contact is increasing between Communist troops and units of the US 4th Infantry Division participating in Operation SAM HOUSTON in western Pleiku Province. US casualties are 39 killed and 137 wounded, with 137 known enemy killed. There have been two B-52 strikes in support of the operation.

In the Mekong Delta four battalions of South Vietnamese troops terminated Operation DAN CHI 279, which included ten hours of bitter fighting in Chuong Thien Province, 100 miles southwest of Saigon. Cumulative Viet Cong losses were 331 killed. Government losses totaled 30 killed and 112 wounded; two Americans were killed and seven wounded, and ten US helicopters were downed.



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Jamaica: [The outcome of the 21 February general elections is expected to be close.]

[The ruling Jamaica Labor Party (JLP) appears to have a slight edge, gained in part by gerrymandering. Eight seats have been added to the House of Representatives this year, bringing the total to 53. The JLP's campaign strategy and propaganda, aimed primarily at rural voters, appear more effective than those of the opposition People's National Party (PNP).]

[Opposition leaders have alleged that the JLP has tampered with electoral lists and has rigged voter registration.]

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[Sporadic violence, particularly in the major cities, has occurred and is expected up to election day. If the results are invalidated in many constituencies, further violence might break out. The police and defense forces, however, have performed adequately to date, and should be able to contain if not forestall any major outbreaks.]

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Argentina: [An open clash between government and labor is becoming increasingly likely.]

[Despite the National Security Council's decision on 14 February to ban demonstrations, leaders of the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) apparently still plan a series of wildcat strikes and demonstrations next week to show their disapproval of the government's labor policy. They also threaten to take to the streets if the government takes over the CGT.]

[Strict security measures are in effect to protect the inter-American conferences, which are now scheduled to last through 22 February, and the regime undoubtedly hopes to avoid violence at least until the meetings are over. Labor leaders, however, claim they cannot compromise in the face of government pressure without losing their support among the rank and file. Most armed forces leaders appear satisfied with the government's stand thus far, but Ongania probably could not make concessions to the unions now without considerably increasing military discontent.]

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Israel-Syria: The fourth meeting between Israel and Syria to discuss the dispute over farming in the demilitarized zone was called off yesterday for the second time, apparently because of Syrian unwillingness to adhere to the agenda. There may be no further talks, since no new date was set for the meeting. The absence of progress toward an accommodation on the diplomatic front has been accompanied during the past four days by renewed firing across the border and an Israeli encounter with a band of Arab infiltrators near the Lebanese frontier.

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 15 February 1967 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

NIE 55-67, "Prospects for Indonesia"

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